



The TACO Times

Celebrating 30 years of Bread Day

Paul's International Salad

Chopped green peppers
 Kidney beans, drained and rinsed
 Black beans, drained and rinsed
 Sliced cucumbers
 Chopped pepperoni
 Sliced black olives
 Chopped tomatoes
 Feta cheese
 Romaine lettuce

Mix ingredients with either Greek or Italian salad dressing.

Paul Moorman is the TACO Food Coordinator. Get a new recipe from our fabulous chefs in every issue!

TACO Wish List

- Chapstick/lip balm with minimum SPF 15
- Disposable razors
- New white socks and underwear, men's (L, XL) and women's (M and L)

Save the Date!

**October 30th
 For the
 30 years of Bread Day!
 30 years of
 Transformation**

Volume 2, Issue 2

June, 2005

Why Do You Serve? A Story from Jim Lovell

We're often asked: Why do you serve? Why is justice an issue? How is it coming about?

I will tell you a story. This occurred about a year after I had been working at TACO, a place that puts a high value on social justice and the spiritual calls to it. It may be an indirect way to answer, but I think this story does the job when all is said and done.

See, the "Why" questions can be difficult. For me, it is not always clear in the moment. Sometimes the answer comes quickly. Sometimes the answer comes in the unfolding, and sometimes the answer comes long after the event itself.

Well, let me tell you the story. To me it's the core reason that I am called, that we are called, to be about this work.

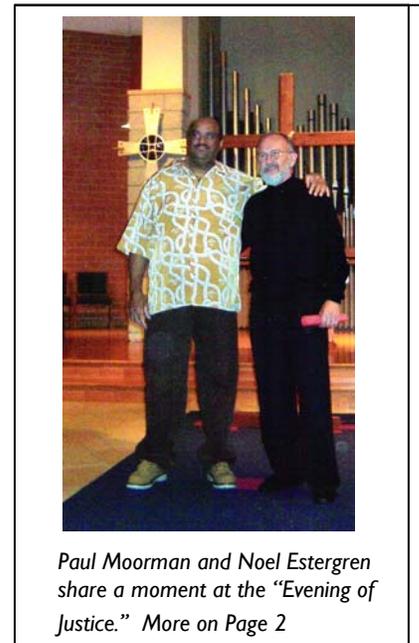
It involves Billy, someone we know well from the Bread Day food lines and a person many consider to have "a lot of character."

One to two times a month, some of us from TACO and some of us from UCSD go out for Street Medical Outreach. Literally, that means going to the homeless camps and food lines and seeing if anyone needs medical care. There are many reasons that some programs designed to provide care to homeless people often leave many behind, but that discussion is for another time.

One Outreach night, a couple of homeless guys we know came up to tell us about Billy. They were worried because he had been sick for some time and seemed to be getting worse instead of better. This was back in December when it was raining a lot.

Billy, barely 30 years old, had been living on the streets for three to four years. He had formed some close friendships with these men; they camped together and provided each other with safety, support and a sense of family. They cared about what happened to each other.

A couple of our team brought Billy over to see the medical students and Dr. Beck. He was in horrible shape, soaked to the skin from the rain, cold, clammy, and coughing badly. Dr. Beck felt that he should go to the



Paul Moorman and Noel Estergren share a moment at the "Evening of Justice." More on Page 2

ER, so Paul Moorman took him there made the connections so that they would see him.

Over the next three and a half weeks, Billy was treated for pneumonia, had surgery to drain his lungs, healed (a little) and was finally released.

During the time Billy was in the hospital, every week one of his group would come and ask me if I had seen Billy and how he was doing. Usually it was Sam. Whenever I saw him, Sam wanted details as to Billy's condition and what would happen next. Did I tell you that Billy wasn't the most pleasant guy I had ever met? Well that is true.

Previously, I had not exactly looked for more opportunities to spend time with him. In the hospital, he felt more confined and was a little crankier.

... Continued on Page 2

I was going to see him as time allowed, and sometimes I let other things get in the way.

Still, Sam was always there, every Monday, every Friday, asking “How is Billy now?” I told Sam what floor Billy was on and what the visiting hours were and even gave him a token for the bus, saying “you should really visit your friend and see him yourself.” Sam said thanks and took the token and that was the end of the conversation.

The next week he was back. “How is Billy?” “Sam, didn’t you see him yourself? Don’t you know how he is?” A one word reply, “No.” Then came, “I can’t go in there like this” pointing at himself and his bags.

Then it dawned on me. Despite

so much time with homeless people, it began to sink in.

These are Outside People. Not only are they ticketed for sleeping on the streets, but they are viewed with suspicion when they enter any building, business or restaurant.

Sam simply could not go into that hospital and visit his friend of two years. He would be regarded with suspicion by security and the information desk, if he could even get that far. Once in the elevator and on the floor, no one would look directly at him, and as he passed there would be looks of disgust or suspicion. No one would have answered his questions, had he been strong enough to ask them.

I realized that we have created a caste of untouchables. People who are not given the same human rights— not because of color or

nationality - but because they are the poorest of the poor.

So, my answers came through this experience. Through my relationship with these two men, through my understanding of their relationship and its power, and through the relationship of my society with their class.

These are the people Jesus met at the edges of the cities, too unacceptable to be allowed inside. This understanding is why social justice is an issue for me.

TACO Director Jim Lovell first shared this story at the recent “Evening of Justice” fundraiser, where more than \$1,800 was pledged to TACO feeding and medical programs. Read more below.

Evening of Justice a Great Success

More than 90 people enjoyed “An Evening of Justice and Our Cup Runneth Over,” our TACO fundraiser, on March 6. We raised \$1,852! Half of that money was given to First Lutheran to fund its support of our programs.

First Lutheran’s sanctuary was filled with the church’s parishioners, TACO volunteers, community members, guests from TACO programs and medical personnel from UCSD’s free clinics. Pastor Noel Estergren, Jim Lovell, Lisa Seiler, Paul Moorman, Doctor Ellen Beck, Director of the UCSD Free Clinic, and Larry Milligan, longtime advocate for the homeless, inspired us all with stories of their dedication to improving the lives of the disenfranchised and those lost in the downward spiral of poverty.

Many thanks to everyone whose generous donations made the evening memorable, including the Antique Row Café on Adams Avenue for the delicious soups and Di Holker and David Lantz of Tchotchke’s in Carmel Valley for the generous donation of TACO “Do Justice” T-Shirts.

More than \$22,000 for Feinstein Fund Match

Thanks to generous donations from First Lutheran friends and others, TACO raised \$22,061 for the Feinstein Fund this year! \$1,852 came from the “Evening of Justice” fundraiser, and we had \$7,717 in general contributions along with a major gift of \$10K and some other monies, according to TACO Director Jim Lovell.

This was the eighth year that Alan Shawn Feinstein, a journalist, educator and businessman, has conducted the ‘Feinstein Challenge,’ matching donations to causes that work to end hunger. For more information, go to www.feinsteinfoundation.org.

Serving the Broken; Broken Ourselves?

In early April, Jim Lovell attended a two-day event at Wheat Ridge Ministries in Livermore, Calif. Jim reports: “We talked about our programs, worshipped together, and worked on some organizational training. The following are Jim’s thoughts from the plane ride back.

Who is on the street? This is always such a big question. Largely because we like our groups to be homogeneous. We see people with significant illnesses. Many are physical but just as many are emotional, mental, spiritual. It is easy for us to believe that somehow we are removed from these people. What is our response? What was Jesus’ response? Jesus healed people. He healed them and told them that their sins were forgiven but he did not say that their sins had caused their illness. The people he required action from were those who were not wounded.

I was in a Carl’s Jr. in the United Nations Plaza in San Francisco and I felt like I was in a movie where a city has been destroyed. The dining area and bathrooms were filled with the homeless, the disheveled, the limping, the staggering, and the smelly, poorly clothed refugees of the city.

This restaurant could be all of us. If we were able to see people by their true insides, we would be walking around in a world where everyone was at times limping, and smelly, and lost and scared. We are all wounded in one way or another.

Does God want us to see the hurt and work to heal? Is that our mission? Or does God want us to take off our veneer and walk in a broken way? All the pictures I have ever seen of Mother Theresa she looks like the people she serves. It is very difficult for us to appear like that. We all work hard to hide our brokenness. Perhaps it would be easier for us to relate to each other if we could do so in our brokenness rather than in our put-togetherness. Jesus certainly meets us there and heals all of us from the inside out.

The History of Bread Day, Part 2

The TACO Times continues its story of how Bread Day has grown over its 30-year history.

Growth and grants

In 1982, Bread Day volunteers began receiving donations that helped them expand their menu to include soup, cheese and later, dessert. As word of mouth spread among the homeless community, the church at Third and Ash became known as a haven of compassion and caring. The church offered a dignified place to share a meal and socialize, whether people lived on the streets, on a fixed income or in one of downtown's many low-rent hotels.

By 1990, the number served was 23,000, and throughout the decade the program continued to grow until the church offered food several nights a week.

In 1996, the programs, which by now included a medical clinic, were incorporated as a separate, non-profit charity, which enabled them to re-

ceive corporate donations. Christened the Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO), the reorganization allowed members to broaden their focus beyond just food – to welcome, nurture and build a sense of community and encourage healing and independence.

Don't miss the continuing story in our next issue: Bread Day runs into trouble and First Lutheran gets serious about social activism.

Moorman is King of the Grill

Did you know? TACO's own Paul Moorman has organized barbecues not only for TACO guests on the patio, but also at locations like the temporary winter shelter near San Diego's main post office.

It's his way of making an everyday meal something special—the next cookout is July 4 at First Lutheran. To help with future events, contact Paul or Lisa Seiler at **(619) 235-9445**.

Spreading the Word; Sharing Our Mission

TACO staff and volunteers gave a presentation March 6 to the Adult Sunday School of **Calvary Lutheran Church** in Solana Beach, a longtime supporter of our mission.

Several volunteers who are also parishioners of Calvary Lutheran spoke about the positive impact that their service has had on their lives. Calvary sends a delegation of dedicated volunteers every month. Members Lisa Seiler and Catherine Pearson-Bennet work with TACO on a weekly basis; Lisa is the TACO Volunteer Coordinator and Catherine is a nurse practitioner who works at the UCSD Free Clinic on Monday evenings. The Ross family and Jim Seiler are also frequent volunteers.



Lisa and Jim at Calvary Lutheran

As a surprise, the junior and senior high school youth group presented TACO with a \$425 gift from their Souper Bowl fundraiser! Many thanks to Calvary Lutheran for their warm welcome and ongoing support.

St. Peter's by the Sea Lutheran Church in Point Loma honored TACO at its annual Christian Service Committee Brunch on May 22nd. TACO made presentations at both church services and hosted an information table at the delicious brunch. Parishioners generously donated \$1,283 to TACO! Our sincere thanks goes to St. Peter's and Pastor Marohn for their heartfelt welcome and incredible display of Christian discipleship.

UCSD honors Paul Moorman

The UCSD's School of Medicine Free Clinic Project presented Paul Moorman with its Founder's Award in honor of his work helping to establish and maintain the Street Medical Outreach program.

Paul, Dr. Beck, and Jim Lovell are joined by medical students and others as they visit the streets of San Diego helping homeless individuals too sick or intimidated to seek medical attention in traditional clinic settings. Thank you for all of your dedication!



Paul displays his plaque

Thank you to Chinmaya Mission, a Hindu congregation that has provided a monthly donation of cheese, milk and assorted clothing/hygiene items.

Christmas in July Revs Up for 2nd Year

The Christmas In July drive is accepting donations for sleeping bags and other comfort items to be distributed to our guests on Christmas Eve. **Just \$10 buys a sleeping bag!**



Organizers Ladonna Piper and Mina Nazaryan are aiming to raise \$2,500, which will buy 250 bags. **Speaking of comfort**, thanks to one very generous donation combined with some leftover funds from last year, TACO was able to buy 40 sleeping bags, 7 small tents, more than 200 bottles of sunscreen and lip balm and 200 portable medical kits for our guests. We are so incredibly blessed!

Contact Lisa Seiler for more information: (619) 235-9445.

The TACO Times
Third Avenue Charitable
Organization, Inc.
First Lutheran Church
1420 Third Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101-3193

Board of Directors

President Rev. Noel Estergren,
Retired Pastor, First Lutheran

Church

Vice President Steve Hassett,

Incarnation Lutheran Church

Secretary Professor Susan Baer,
San Diego State University, Claire-

mont Lutheran Church

Treasurer Tom Templeton,

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

Member Damon Jefferson, Mesa

View Baptist Church

First Lutheran Council Liaison

Debra Miller

Member Rev. Ted Johns

Member Rebecca Snure, First
Lutheran Church

**“A place where healing of mind, body and spirit
can happen for any and all who come.”**

Join us

- Preparing and serving meals
- Set-up and cleanup
- Driving, shopping and picking up food
- Gathering other supplies and donations

Sponsor us

- Urge your company or corporation to contribute
- Organize your church or youth group
- Make an individual financial contribution

Support us

- With your prayers and voice of advocacy for the people we serve

Are you a medical professional? Consider donating your time and services to our medical, dental and acupuncture clinics.

Contact us

We can not close our eyes to the realities of our community, and we will not close our doors when outside there are people in need.

Jim Lovell

Project Coordinator
(619) 235-9445 ext. 1

jim.chacha@firstlutheransd.org

Lisa Seiler

Volunteer Coordinator
619-235-9445 ext. 2

lisa.taco@firstlutheransd.org

Time to celebrate!

30 years of

Transformation

TACO and First Lutheran
Church invite you to join us in

marking the

**30th Anniversary
of Bread Day**

October 30th, 2005

Please help us plan this
very special event!

Call (619) 235-9445

The TACO Times

Vol. 2 No. 2

First Lutheran Church
Third Ave. Charitable Org. Inc.
1420 Third Ave.
San Diego, Ca. 92101-3193

Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage PAID San Diego, CA Permit No. 194
